

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical stapling apparatus and vacuum system, the system comprising:
a surgical stapling apparatus including a body portion, a shell assembly and an anvil, the
shell assembly being positioned on a distal end of the body portion and including an annular
5 array of staples and at least one aperture, the anvil being movably supported in relation to the
shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions; and
a vacuum device including a vacuum conduit and a resilient band adapted to be fastened to
the shell assembly, the vacuum device being positioned to draw a vacuum within the shell
assembly of the surgical stapling apparatus through the at least one aperture.
- 10 2. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the resilient material is neoprene.
3. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the resilient material is rubber.
4. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the vacuum conduit communicates with a
port in the band.
5. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one aperture of the shell
15 assembly includes a plurality of apertures, the port communicating with one of the plurality of
apertures and the band being configured and dimensioned to seal the others of the plurality of
apertures.
6. A surgical stapling apparatus and vacuum system, the system comprising:
a surgical stapling apparatus including a body portion, a shell assembly and an anvil, the
20 shell assembly being positioned on a distal end of the body portion and including an annular

array of staples and at least one aperture, the anvil being movably supported in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions; and

a vacuum device including a housing and a vacuum conduit, the housing being positioned about at least a portion of the shell assembly of the surgical stapling apparatus to define a vacuum chamber, the at least one aperture being positioned within the vacuum chamber, the vacuum conduit communicating with the vacuum chamber, and at least one vacuum tube having a first end positioned within the vacuum chamber and a second end positioned within an inner chamber of the shell assembly.

7. A system as recited in Claim 8, wherein the at least one vacuum tube includes a plurality of vacuum tubes.

8. A system as recited in Claim 9, further including a manifold slidably positioned within the vacuum chamber, the first end of each of the vacuum tubes being secured to the manifold.

9. A system as recited in Claim 8, further including an actuator operably connected to the manifold, the actuator being movable to move the manifold and the plurality of vacuum tubes between a non-deployed position in which the second end of each of the vacuum tubes is positioned within the shell assembly and a deployed position in which the second end of each of the vacuum tubes is positioned external of the shell assembly.

10. A system as recited in Claim 9, wherein at least one of the vacuum tubes is formed of a shape-memory material.

11. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the second end of the at least one of the plurality of vacuum tubes points radially outwardly of the shell assembly in the deployed position.

12. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the second end of the at least one of the plurality of vacuum is positioned radially outwardly of the shell assembly in the deployed position.

13. A surgical stapling apparatus comprising:
a body portion, a shell assembly supported on a distal end of the body portion, an anvil supported on the distal end of an anvil shaft, the anvil being movable in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions, a vacuum channel extending through the anvil shaft and at least one vacuum opening extending through the anvil shaft at a location spaced from the anvil.

14. A surgical stapling apparatus as recited in Claim 13, wherein the at least one vacuum opening includes a plurality of vacuum openings.

15. A surgical stapling apparatus as recited in Claim 14, wherein each opening of the plurality of openings includes an elongated slot.

16. A surgical stapling apparatus as recited in Claim 13, wherein the plurality of openings are spaced along the longitudinal axis of the anvil shaft.

17. A surgical stapling apparatus as recited in Claim 13, wherein the at least one vacuum opening is positioned within an inner chamber of the shell assembly.

18. A surgical stapling apparatus as recited in Claim 17, wherein the plurality of openings are spaced about the periphery of the anvil shaft.